

Briefing note

Massive Attack Debrief Report

Background

Concerts were held over two nights by Bristol based band Massive Attack in a temporary arena (Steel Yard) on the former runway at Filton Airfield. The event was held within a 8000m² 'hangar' structure with supporting infrastructure of two large food/drink marques, bars, toilets etc. The events took place between the hours of 17:30 and 22:30 on the 1st and 2nd March 2019. Massive Attack headlined the show from 20:45. There were not any support acts, but DJ's did provide warm up music within the main arena and bars adjacent to the Steel Yard.

Data Captured Post Event

Traffic

Attendance over the two nights was 28,000 with data showing those whilst those attending were mainly from the south west of England some attendees had travelled considerable distances. On both the days around 3,100 car trips were made; with an additional 2,400 car or taxi drop off/pick up. 230 bus movements arrived at the site, and just under 300 cycles. 30% travelled by shuttle buses from the centre of Bristol. 55% travelled by car and parked on site. 14% travelled by taxi, were dropped off or walked to site and 1% cycled.

The data suggest that about 40% of trip origins were local, 20% from the surrounding region and 40% from elsewhere. Surprisingly, this was not materially different by either bus or car. Between 2,500 and 3,000 trips were made by pedestrians each day, and more should have been done to accommodate them.

Arrivals were evenly spread over a four-hour period, whereas all departures occurred within an hour. However, there was no reported off-site incidents of excessive congestion and traffic flowed exceptionally well on both nights. Indeed, little difference seems to have been experienced over and above the normal flow and delay variations on local roads.

Noise

Those responsible for the event were committed to proactively managing noise, minimising any impact from the event, whilst still operating at commercially acceptable levels.

There was a single complaint to the complaint hotline on the Friday, from a lady who had heard the event whilst putting her cat out. On visiting this area, the music noise was largely inaudible below other noise sources and several orders of magnitude below the event noise limits.

The Saturday resulted in 6 complaints (including one from the complainant on Friday). These were all to the east of the site, which was downwind of the event. The complainants who wished to be contacted or visited were and irrespective of this all postcodes for complainant's addresses were visited. The music noise levels were significantly below the limits and it appears the issue for all the complainants was that the event was simply audible.

The event promoter and their technical advisors were committed to ensuring that the event took place whilst maintaining an acceptable balance between the needs of the community, the venue and the audience. There were no breaches of the set limits and at all times the event operated significantly under those permitted within the events Licence.

A number of residents commented whilst readings were taken, that the noise impact was far less than it had been expected and they were surprised and pleased to see that the event was monitoring, and limiting, its own noise.

Debrief from Agencies

All key agencies were contacted post event for their feedback. A summary of which is provided below.

REPORTED AS "WENT WELL"	BY WHOM
Traffic Management (in particular ingress and egress)	Traffic Manager
Use of Variable Message Signs on Highway Network advising of event / warning of delays	Highways England
Contact and Engagement with Event Team	Traffic Manager Health and Safety Police
Very good Event Management Plan	Health and Safety
Organisation and running of all bars with efficient marshalling	Licensing
Security and marshalling on site	Licensing
Impact on policing was minimal with no reports of disorder or complaints from local residents.	Police

Crowd Management of Audience	Fire
Noise Control	Noise Team

REPORTED AS “NOT GONE SO WELL”	BY WHOM
Traffic Management discussions and agreement late in the planning process	Traffic Manager
Traffic Management was very vehicle focused with little thought to pedestrians and cyclists	Traffic Manager
Willingness to take on responsibility for safety and wellbeing of pedestrians off site	Traffic Manager
The Taxi/Private Hire Drop Off / Collection area was badly lit and signed increasing the risk of slips, trips and falls. The Taxi rank provision was not sufficient in terms of supply	Licensing
Smoking inside the venue	Fire Licensing

LESSONS LEARNT
If the hangars become an arena with regular events a standard traffic management plan would be required.
Travel by public transport (routine bus routes) was far higher than anticipated and as a result increased access by pedestrians for which adequate provision was not made.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Pedestrian access
Better provision and enforcement of Health Act in relation to the ban on smoking within the venue.

The following specific comments were made by Agencies.

Parking and transport were very well organised and operated. Car parks were cleared in a controlled manner within 45 minutes of the event ending.

The whole team worked well together, the Promoter, Site Contractors, Venue and Local Authority.

Summary

A very successfully executed event with no major traffic or noise issues. The event promoters have recently been in touch regarding plans for a potential event in 2020 and an initial meeting set for Friday 14 June 2019.

Contact information

[REDACTED]

Environmental Protection Team Leader / Chair of Safety Advisory Group

01454 86 [REDACTED]